

Message Text

SECRET

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20

DRC-01 /138 W

----- 088325

O 101937Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5852

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEGUCIGALPA 4608

SUMMARY: WE HAVE SOUNDED LOCAL LEADERS ON SALVADOR PROBLEM, BUT THERE IS NO CLEAR IDEA ON WHAT GOH WILL DO NEXT. LOPEZ PLANS TO MEET TOMORROW WITH MOLINA. EMBASSY IS PUSHING FOR SOME KIND OF CONTINUED CONTACT AFTER DEC 15, POSSIBLY ON BASIS OF JOINT DECLARATION.

END SUMMARY.

1. I DISCUSSED THE SALVADOR/HONDURAS IMPASSE WITH GEN LOPEZ ON DEC 8. THE GENERAL EXPRESSED GREAT PRIDE IN THE "POSITION OF MODERATION" DEVELOPED BY GOH AFTER THE GOES DENUNCIATION OF THE BOGOTA PACT. SALVADOR *AD DAMAGED ITS REPUTATION BY THE ACTION, IN HIS OPINION. HE SAID HE WAS NOT NOW OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RESULTS OF THE MEXICO TALKS, INDICATING HE FELT THEY HAD COMPLETELY BOGGED DOWN. I TOLD HIM WE WERE IMPRESSED BY HIS EFFORTS AT MODERATION AND WONDERED OUT LOUD IF PERHAPS A DIRECT INTERVENTION OF THE CHIEFS OF STATE HAD BEEN CONSIDERED. AT THE SAME

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TIME I ACKNOWLEDGED THE DIFFICULTIES THE CHIEFS FACED

WITH REGARD TO COMPULSORY TIME CONSTRAINTS. HE SAID THAT TIME HAD IN FACT BECOME THEIR CHIEF PROBLEM, BUT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES. HE THEN TOLD ME THAT HE HAD AGREED TO A PRIVATE MEETING ON TUESDAY, DEC 11. WHILE THE IMPLICATION CLEARLY POINTED TO A SUMMIT MEETING OF THE CHIEFS OF STATE HE DID NOT SPECIFY PARTICIPANTS OR SITE.

2. ON SAME DAY DCM REVIEWED PROBLEM WITH ACTING FONMIN PINEDA, AND LATER WITH INISTERS ACOSTA*AND FONSECA. DCM INFORMED PINEDA OF FACT THA FONMI* BORGONOVO HAD EXPRESSED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO IDEA OF JOINT DECLARATION OF TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH WOULD PERMIT CONTINUATION OF TALKS AFTER DEC 15 CUTOFF DATE. PINEDA HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF BATRES' POSSIBLE INTEREST IN THIS MOVE. WHEN ASKED WHAT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING OF GOH PLANS, HE SAID THAT DELEGATION PLANNED TO NEGOTIATE TO FURTHEST POSSIBLE DEGREE OF ACCORD IN MEXICO. (HE SAID BATRES HAD BEEN BACK IN TOWN FOR ONE DAY, BUT HAD LEFT AGAIN ON MORNING OF DEC 7 FOR MEXICO. HE HAD ONLY VERY BRIEF CHAT WITH HIM.) IT WAS PINEDA'S UNDERSTANDING THAT GOH, AFTER EXPIRY OF LAST ROUND OF TALKS, WOULD MAKE FORMAL REPORT TO OAS COMMITTEE OF SEVEN. HE SAID THAT GEN LOPEZ WAS MEETING WITH MOLINA ON DEC 11, AND THAT EVERYONE WOULD AWAIT OUTCOME OF THIS TALK.

3. AT SOCIAL OCCASION LATER, DCM DISCUSSED MATTER JOINTLY WITH PINEDA, ACOSTA AND FONSECA. ALL WERE AWARE OF GEN LOPEZ' PLANNED MEETING OF DEC 11. DCM MADE POINTS THAT (A) SOME SORT OF WORKING CONTACTS SHOULD BE CONTINUED OR PROGRAMMED FOR AFTER DEC 15 TO AVOID RUPTURE AND DECLARATION OF FAILURE; (B) A JOINT DECLARATION OF TWO PARTIES, WORDED AS VAGUELY OR SPECIFICALLY AS THEY WISHED, WOULD PROVIDE PLAUSIBLE EXCUSE; AND (C) GOH, AND BATRES PERSONALLYBP HAD NO NEED TO ANTICIPATE PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS DOMESTICALLY, SINCE ENTIRE NATIONAL ATTENTION AND ENERGIES WERE NOW FOCUSSED NOT ON TALKS BUT ON UPCOMING DEVELOPMENT PLAN. PINEDA KEPT QUIET IN PRESENCE OF HIS SUPERIORS, BUT

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BOTH ACOSTA AND FONSECA SAID THEY WANTED TO KEEP TRYING FOR A SETTLEMENT, AND STATED THAT CONTINUATION OF TALKS IN SOME FORM WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THEM. THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY EXPECTING THAT LOPEZ WILL ARRANGE SOMETHING ON DEC 11. SANCHEZ

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NNN

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